

Message Text

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R 161406Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

UNCLAS STATE 138692

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ALGIERS AMMAN BEIRUT
JERUSALEM PARIS RABAT ROME TEL AVIV TRIPOLI FROM TUNIS
13 JUL 73:

QUOTE TUNIS 4086

DEPT PASS CAIRO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TS, JO, XF

SUBJECT: BOURGUIBA REFUSES RETRACT AN-NAHAR STATEMENTS
AGAINST JORDAN

REF: A. BEIRUT 7980 B. AMMAN 3583 C. AMMAN 3675

1. OFFICIAL PRESS HEADLINES ON JULY 13 BOURGUIBA STATEMENT
THAT "MY DECLARATION TO NEWSPAPER AN-NAHAR DOES NOT CALL FOR
ANY DENIAL". STATEMENT MADE FOLLOWING BOURGUIBA MEETING
WITH JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR AL-KAYLANI JULY 12. PRESS ARTICLE
CONTINUES THAT BOURGUIBA, IN MAKING STATEMENTS TO AN-NAHAR
(ADVOCATING PALESTINIAN STATE TO REPLACE HASHEMITE KINGDOM),
IN NO WAY SOUGHT TO ATTACK KING HUSSEIN PERSONALLY, NOR TURN
JORDANIAN PEOPLE AGAINST HIM.

2. PRESS ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT BOURGUIBA EXPLAINED TO
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JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR NATURE AND STATUS OF HIS MIDDLE EAST

INITIATIVE, AND "ASKED AMBASSADOR TO BRING THESE CLARIFICATIONS TO KING HUSSEIN'S ATTENTION IN ORDER TO KNOW WHETHER THEY WOULD GAIN HIS ADHESION AND GIVE HIM ALL SATISFACTION".

3. QUOTING BOURGUIBA DIRECTLY, PRESS CONTINUES: "IN THE EVENT THAT THESE ASSURANCES SEEM INSUFFICIENT TO HIM, AND IF HE SHOULD DECIDE TO BREAK OUR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, I WOULD ACCEPT THIS DECISION WITH MUCH REGRET." BOURGUIBA NOTED THAT NASSER HAD BROKEN RELATIONS WITH TUNISIA IN 1965 AND MOROCCO ALSO, OVER MAURETANIA ISSUE. RELATIONS WITH BOTH COUNTRIES SINCE RESTORED. BOURGUIBA THEN CONTINUED: "IF JORDAN OPTS FOR BREAK, I HOPE DAY WILL COME WHEN EVERYTHING RETURNS TO ORDER AND WHEN PEOPLE WILL UNDERSTAND THAT I NEVER SOUGHT TO CAUSE HARM TO JORDAN NOR TO ITS KING.

4. BOURGUIBA, HOWEVER, THEN PROCEEDED TO ATTACK JORDANIAN ACTIONS AGAINST FEDAYEEN IN SEPTEMBER 1970, AND EVEN DEPLORED LEBANESE ARMY ATTACKS AGAINST FEDAYEEN AFTER BEIRUT RAID. RESTATED TUNISIAN STRONG SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE. HE THEN ASKED JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR TO "COMMUNICATE THESE REFLECTIONS TO KING HUSSEIN, WHOSE OPINION -- WHATEVER IT MIGHT BE -- WILL BE WELCOME. IN ANY EVENT, I AM READY TO ASSUME FULL AND ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL THAT I HAVE SAID."

5. OUR COMMENTS WILL FOLLOW IN SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE. RELPH
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